December 17 – 23, 2020 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 51 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 135, No. 51

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees will not meet until the first week of January and township hall is closed to the public.

See page 2.

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 73, No. 51

Members of the Canton Board of Trustees unanimously approved a 2.5 percent raise for non-union full-time employees, along with elected township officials.

See page 5.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 73, No. 51

Police have arrested a 28-year old Inkster man suspected in the Nov. 13 fatal shooting at Moe's Fish and Chicken in Inkster.

See page 2.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 20, No. 51

Both Northville Township Hall and Northville City Hall remain closed to the public due to the pandemic. Some appointments for service are available.

See page 6.

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 20, No. 51

Patrick Stropes, a staff member at Growth Works Inc., in Plymouth knows the December holidays are more stressful during the current pandemic.

See page 4.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 135, No. 51

While the celebration was different this year, the official Christmas tree in the City of Romulus has been turned on by Santa himself.

See page 2.

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 73, No. 51

Wayne County Commissioner and former Wayne Mayor Al Haidous wants more financial help for local communities.

See page 3.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 73, No. 51

Westland City Hall and all city administrative offices will remain closed until at least next Monday, Dec. 20 in compliance with health department orders.

See page 3.

Fatal shooting prompts neighborhood concerns

The fatal shooting of a 28-year-old man in Romulus last week prompted several residents of the Oakbrook subdivision to take their safety concerns to members of the city council.

Prior to comments from several residents during the Dec. 7 Zoom city council meeting, Police Chief Robert Pfannes addressed the situation.

"We had a fatal shooting of a 28-year-old man," Pfannes began. "It is understandable that the neighborhood is concerned. There is nothing worse than not feeling safe in your own home."

He said there are currently extra patrols in the subdivision and suggested that residents access the Romulus Police Department Facebook page for updated information.

> *"What can be done to help us preserve our way of life?"*

"That's a good way to keep in touch," he said.

The latest incident took place at about 9:20 p.m. Dec. 1 at a home in the 15000 block of Taft near Eureka and Middlebelt Road. Responding officers entered the house and discovered the victim, dead from a wound to the head. An officer on patrol in the neighborhood observed the suspect vehicle leaving the subdivision and began pursuit. The police chase ended when a suspect abandoned his vehicle near Hamtramck. No arrests have been reported in the death, although Pfannes said that the investigation is progressing.

Oakbrook resident Bill Carroll spoke to the council members of his concerns and recounted numerous illegal activities that have been escalating in the area during the past few years.

He told the officials that six weeks ago there was a drive-by shooting in the neighborhood and the instances of criminal behavior are unchecked. He said that he and his wife had seen a man openly carrying an assault weapon on a nearby corner.

Carroll said he has called Pfannes several times but has not spoken with him. He was also concerned, he said, regarding the speeding drivers through the subdivision which he said race at 50-60 miles per hour up and down the street.

"I refuse to let my kids outside to play. I have three boys and they can't go outside because of problems outside my house," he said.

"What can be done to help us preserve our way of life?" he

See **Concerns,** page 6

Side effects

Long-term physical damages of virus concern health official

Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun is no stranger to contagious disease outbreaks but the effects of COVID-19 continue to surprise her.

Khaldun is the Chief Medical Executive and Chief Deputy Director for Health for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). In these roles, she provides medical guidance for the State of Michigan and oversees the Public Health, Medical Services, Aging and Adult Services, and Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities administrations. If that job isn't enough to keep her busy, she also works in the emergency department at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun

In that role, she has seen several patients coming in for treatment after having been taken off respirators or otherwise cleared by doctors of COVID-19.

"These patients are coming back after getting over COVID with severe symptoms that need treatment. This virus isn't just an immediate risk. We are finding longer-term symptoms such as persistent cough, fatigue and other presentations that require re-admittance to the hospital."

That is only one of Khaldun's concerns about COVID. While the vaccine against the virus could be arriving in Michigan as early as this week, there is a "vaccine hesitancy" among minority communities that the doctor finds troubling.

"If people do not get vaccinated, we will see deaths expand," she said, "and the African American population has been disproportionately affected by this disease." That would indicate, she said, a subsequent disproportionate disparity increase in deaths in minority populations. Asian and Hispanic populations, too, are subject to a higher rate of COVID infection.

Khaldun said that the state departments will make a concentrated effort to reach underserved and minority communities to provide information and educations regarding the necessity of being vaccinated. While she expects the first doses could arrive in the state this week, there will initially be a very limited supply. There is a priority ranking for vaccinations with health care workers, EMS workers long term care residents and staff at the top of the roster for vaccinations followed by educators, employees in food manufacturing and then those older than 65, she said.

She said she expects availability of the vaccine to the general public in late spring of next year, and that her department and others in the state will be working to provide information regarding the importance of vaccinations.

She said the disparate effect of COVID on communities of color may be due to the incidental racism sometimes prevalent in the medical community. She said that skepticism regarding the vaccine and treatment is understandable, but that it is important for these communities to have access to the facts and internalize the importance to them, and their families, of being vaccinated to prevent further infection and deaths due to COVID.

"We're going to be as transparent as possible so people have good information," she said. "The vaccine is a tool we

See **Effects,** page 6

School district adopts new transgender policy

Members of the Plymouth Canton Community Schools district approved a new transgender policy regarding student restrooms and locker rooms during their regular meeting earlier this month.

The issue was not without controversy as some parents commented that the decision was a means of preparing all students for the diverse professional work-place environment while others labeled the decision as the path of destruction and darkness and vilified it as "evil."

While some written comments were negative, the overwhelming majority of those who commented were in support of the new policy which had been under consideration by district administration for about a year. The revision will allow transgender or non-conforming students to use the lavatories and locker rooms at school buildings for the sex with which they identify. Those born male could use the female facilities while those born female but identify as male could use the boys' facilities.

"We passed this policy to provide a more safe, welcoming environment for all of our students," said Patti McCoin, Plymouth-Canton Board of Education president.

"This policy was designed to provide safety and a sense of belonging to our students, especially those who are often marginalized, bullied and assaulted at higher rates than general ed students," she said.

> *"It's important that these kids know that they are seen and that their lives have value.*

"It will not allow predatory sexual behavior, harassment or bullying. That behavior has been and still is prohibited. Engaging in those behaviors will result in disciplinary action," she said.

Board members read written comments from parents, during the virtual meeting which lasted nearly four hours. Many of the comments had filled social media for several weeks.

"It's important that these kids know that they are seen and that their lives have value. Research shows that transgender adolescents have a much higher rate of suicidal thoughts, plans and attempts," one parent wrote.

"We need to prepare our youth and students for a more inclusive work environment where diversity and inclusion are embedded in the work culture," read another.

Those were countered by opposing views which were

See **Policy,** page 6

Inkster - Romulus - Sumpter

City holiday tree lighting goes virtual in 2020

The official Christmas tree in the City of Romulus has been turned on by Santa himself.

While the tree lighting and Santa welcome to the city was much different this year in light of the health restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Santa still managed to arrive and receive the key to the city from Mayor LeRoy Burcroff. He was joined in the pre-recorded event by Superintendent of Romulus Community Schools Dr. Benjamin Edmondson and Gretchen Notaro, principal at Romulus Elementary School. Two special helpers, Ezabella and Gavin, were also on hand for the seasonal event welcoming the holidays to the community.

Burcroff urged residents to enjoy the tree lighting virtually during a recent meeting of the members of the city council and noted that the pandemic had changed the traditional presentation, forcing the video presentation of the event that usually draws a large live audience from the community. He assured children that Santa had officially received the key to the city and was on schedule for deliveries in Romulus.

> *Voting for the best decorated homes in the city will be accepted on Facebook until Jan. 3.*

The city is also celebrating the holidays with Facebook holiday decorating contest. Voting for the best decorated homes in the city will be accepted on Facebook until Jan. 3. The winners will be determined by Facebook votes. To enter, send a photo of the home to tcofield@romulusgov.com.

Sumpter officials cancel all meetings until January

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees will not meet until the first week of January.

All meetings have been cancelled and township hall is closed to the public. Some township employees are available to meet with residents by appointment while others are working from home. The Senior Center is closed for activities, although food distribution continues at the site.

The closures are in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the orders of the Michigan Department of Health which has urged as little public contact as possible as the infection rate of the virus continues to spiral. Currently, several area hospitals are nearing capacity and ICU units are becoming scarce, according to Dr. Joneigh S. Khaldun, Chief Medical Executive and Chief Deputy Director for Health for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

Sumpter officials, however, took the action at the Nov. 17 meeting prior to the latest extension of orders from the health department. During discussion of the closures, Trustees Tim Rush and Don LaPorte agreed that the board members should determine which employees will remain working in township hall and which will work from home. The board will also determine the schedules of the employees who will be paid at their full-time rates.

Treasurer Ken Bednark suggested keeping township hall open with personal service by appointment or at curbside as winter tax season is already under way and bills have been received. Bednark also suggested the township technology department establish a Zoom account so that the board members could meet virtually.

Trustee Matt Oddy said the state has ruled that all municipal meetings must be virtual. He added that establishing the Zoom procedure should be referred to the township technology employee.

The board members also approved all warrants for payment until Dec. 31. Rush suggested the warrants be mailed to officials as they are received for approval.

Notification of the cancellation was posted on the township website and on the front door at township hall.

Inkster man arrested in fatal shooting at Moe's

Police have arrested a suspect in the Nov. 13 fatal shooting at Moe's Fish and Chicken in Inkster.

Police said that Marvin Maurice Mallory, 28, of Inkster, has been charged with first-degree murder in the death of Inkster resident Tyron Larkins, also 28, who was shot while inside the Middlebelt Road restaurant.

According to police, Mallory entered the restaurant and shot Larkins in the face at close range while he was speaking to a woman in the establishment.

In addition to first-degree murder, Mallory has also been charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, carrying a concealed weapon and two counts of felony firearm, according to the office of Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

Mallory was arraigned on the charges in 22nd District Court on Dec. 5. He was not allowed bail and remains lodged in the Wayne County Jail.

The Michigan State Police and Inkster Police Department worked with members of the Homicide Task Force to identify and charge Mallory, according to a news release.

COVID 19
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS
Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.
Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, January 7, 2021 for the following:

SUMMIT LOCKER REPLACEMENT

Proposals may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of proposal opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 12/17/2020

CN2145 - 121720 2.5 x 2.069

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, January 7, 2021 for the following:

FELLOWS CREEK GOLF CLUB EXTERIOR SIDING REPAIR/REPLACEMENT

Proposals may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of proposal opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 12/17/2020

CN2146 - 121720 2.5 x 2.069

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, January 7, 2021 for the following:

SUMMIT DOOR REPLACEMENT

Proposals may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of proposal opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 12/17/2020

CN2147 - 121720 2.5 x 2.069

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, January 7, 2021 for the following:

SUMMIT INDOOR TRACK SURFACE REPLACEMENT

Proposals may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of proposal opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 12/17/2020

CN2148 - 121720 2.5 x 2.069

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 9, 2020
Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Rd, Romulus, MI 48174
MEETING HELD ELECTRONICALLY
VIA ZOOM MEETING/TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Pledge of Allegiance
Led by Councilman Wadsworth
Roll Call
Present: Kathy Abdo, John Barden, Celeste Roscoe, Tina Talley, William Wadsworth, Eva Webb, Virginia Williams
Absent / Excused:

Administrative Officials in Attendance:
LeRoy Burcroff, Mayor Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk Stacy Paige, Treasurer
Administrative Staff in Attendance:
D'Sjonaun Hockenhull - Deputy Clerk; Julie Wojtylko - Chief of Staff; Stephen Hitchcock - City Attorney; Roberto Scappaticci - DPW Director; Stephen Dudek - Technology Director

1. Agenda
A. Moved by **Kathy Abdo,** seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to approve the agenda as amended
Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams
Nays - None
Motion Carried Unanimously

2. Minutes
A. Res. #20-295 Moved by **William Wadsworth,** seconded by **Eva Webb** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on November 5, 2020
Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams
Nays - None
Motion Carried Unanimously

3. Petitioner
No petitions/petitioners at this time

4. Chairperson's Report, John Barden, Mayor Pro-Tem
A. Moved by **Celeste Roscoe,** seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to accept the Chairperson's Report
Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Kathy Abdo, John Barden, Celeste Roscoe, Tina Talley, William Wadsworth, Eva Webb, Virginia Williams
Nays - None
Motion Carried Unanimously.

5. Mayor's Report - LeRoy D. Burcroff, Mayor
A. City Attorney Stephen Hitchcock spoke briefly on the discussions had during the earlier special meeting - closed session(s)
Res. #20-296 Moved by **William Wadsworth,** seconded by **Eva Webb** to concur with the administration and consent to piggyback on the MiDeal Contract #07B7700181 for the purchase of one (1) 2021 Ford Explorer with options and the upfitting of lights and sirens for a total costs of $31,539.00 from Gorno Ford.
Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams
Nays - None
Motion Carried Unanimously
B. Res. #20-297 Moved by Celeste Roscoe, seconded by Tina Talley to concur with the administration and adopt the resolution and guidelines for the City of Romulus Road System Asset Management Plan and Analysis.
Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams Nays - None
Motion Carried Unanimously
C. Res. #20-298 Moved by **Celeste Roscoe,** seconded by **Tina Talley** to concur with the administration and authorize Mayor and Clerk to enter into the amended cell tower lease agreement for tower located at parcel # 80-142-99-004-700
Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb
Nays - Abdo
Abstain - Williams
Motion Carried
Res. #20-299 Moved by **Eva Webb,** seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to concur with the administration and authorize Mayor and Clerk to enter into the amended cell tower lease agreement for tower located at parcel # 80-079-99-0017-002
Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb,
Nays - Abdo
Abstain - Williams
Motion Carried

6. Clerk's Report - Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk
A. Res. #20-300 Moved by **Celeste Roscoe,** seconded **by Tina Talley** to amend the minutes from September8 & September 28 Closed Session - Special Meetings
Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams
Nays - None
Motion Carried Unanimously
The clerk took a moment to give a special thanks to Stephen Dudek, Technology Director, for his tireless efforts on Election Day, making sure that results were transmitted to the Wayne County.

7. Treasurer's Report - Stacy Paige, Treasurer
Treasurer Paige informed residents that her department is currently preparing the winter tax bills. Residents should expect those bills to be mailed on 12/1/2020.

8. Public Comment - Citizens are to limit their comments to three (3) minutes. All citizens wishing to speak willbe heard.
No comments from the public

9. Unfinished Business
No unfinished business to discuss

10. New Business
No new business to discuss

11. Warrant
A. Res. #20-301 Moved by **Kathy Abdo,** seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve Warrant #:20-21 Checks presented in the amount of $1,032,947.07
Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb
Nays - Williams
Motion Carried
B. Res. #20-302 Moved by Kathy **Abdo,** seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve Warrant #: 20-21E Checks presented in the amount of $34, 428.00
Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams
Nays - None
Motion Carried Unanimously

12. Communication
Councilwoman Talley thanked Attorney Hitchcock for his summary of the closed session discussion. She spoke on her absence at the property disposition meeting on 7/23/18. Councilwoman Roscoe reminded residents that there will be no Planning Commission meeting on Monday 11/16/20. She also thanked all veterans serving the community or have served the community in some capacity. She gave drop-off locations (Veteran's Post and Walter's Bar & Grill) for the Toys for Tots drive. Toys are being collected by veterans in the community until 12/10/20. Councilwoman Williams reminded residents that Forgotten Harvest will be at the High School from 12pm - 3pm.

13. Adjournment
Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm
Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams
Nays - None
Motion Carried Unanimously

I, Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on November 9, 2020.

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, City Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

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WAYNE - WESTLAND

Former Wayne mayor seeks more help for communities

Al Haidous (D-Wayne) said he was pleased with a recent report presented to the Wayne County Commission Economic Development Committee, but more help for local communities is needed.

Haidous, a former Wayne mayor who chairs the committee, said the report demonstrated that minority and female-owned businesses were major recipients of grant and loan programs distributed through Wayne County to assist small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey, presented by assistant Wayne County Executive Khalil Rahal, showed that some $70 million in grants and loans were distributed through various federal, state and county-supported programs to 5,117 businesses. Grants were available during the current year to businesses with fewer than 50 employees, loans to those with fewer than 100.

Of the 4,888 awarded grants, 2,547 went to minority-owned businesses, 1,946 to female-owned businesses and 137 to businesses owned by military veterans. Rahal noted that some businesses were represented in several categories.

Minority-owned businesses included those owned by African Americans and Arab Americans, as well as a smaller number owned by Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans.

Haidous said while the numbers were good news, both in terms of overall aid provided and the number of minority-owned and female-owned businesses represented, more must be done in the coming year, especially at the federal level.

"I hope Washington gives us the tools we need, in terms of funding, to help these people," Haidous said.

Of the $70 million in small business grants and loans, $51.5 million was distributed through the Wayne County Back To Work program. An additional $14.8 million was distributed through Restart programs administered through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, with half of that money going to Detroit and the rest available to all other Wayne County communities. An additional $80,000 was distributed through a separate MEDC relief program.

The Wayne County Commission offered another $4.4 million in loans through a partnership with TCF Bank.

Special visitor

Santa officially arrived in the City of Wayne last week to officially light the city Christmas tree. Welcoming the annual celebrity was Mayor John Rhaesa who presented Santa with the key to the city. The two then traveled to the home of Delisse Smith on Phyllis Street to offer her special thanks for the elaborate holiday lighting at her home which is bringing cheer to the community during the pandemic. Photos by Sean Rhaesa

City administrative offices remain closed in Westland

Westland City Hall and all city administrative offices will remain closed until at least next Monday, Dec. 20.

The offices are closed in response to restrictions from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and were closed by officials Nov. 17 in response to the State of Michigan "three week pause" which required limits on indoor gatherings and prohibited in-person work which can be done from home. Administrative Offices will remain operational with a limited staff, according to an official statement from the city.

Residents are encouraged to utilize the city online services at www.cityofwestland.com during this time. Contact information for city departments is also listed on the city website and city staff members will be responding to emails and voicemails as quickly as possible.

There are also two drop boxes located in front of city hall for residents to drop off payments and paperwork which will continue to be checked daily.

Essential government services that will continue include public safety, utilities, animal control, housing and building departments, sanitation (including trash collection), and finance.

The extension also includes the temporary closure of the Jefferson Barns Community Vitality Center, the Friendship Senior Center and the Mike Modano Ice Arena to the public.

The Westland Public Library was closed temporarily but re-opened at a limited capacity last Monday. The 18th District Court remains open.

Westland officials have also cancelled the annual "Deck the City Hall" holiday event, The event will now take place on a digital format and will air on WLND.

Public meetings, including meetings of the Westland City Council will continue to be conducted virtually.

For the most current information and updates on other city closures and postponements, visit www.cityofwestland.com.

Shop and Dine under way

The annual Shop and Dine campaign in Westland is under way, with some changes due to the COVID-19 virus.

Due to the current pandemic-related events, the awareness campaign has shifted to supporting small businesses within the community and the importance of shopping local. The city TV commercials already on the air stress the importance of supporting small businesses facing economic downturn caused by the economic impact of the virus, nationwide. Radio ads will also be heard on the metro area air waves. The campaign also encompasses a large digital and social presence as well as billboards, according to a city spokesman.

This is the 11th year for the six-week campaign which takes place annually during the holiday season and promotes Westland as a premier shopping district the has "Everything you want. Everything you need" for your holiday season shopping list. The Shop and Dine district is anchored by the Westland Shopping Center and is surrounded by more than 160 shops, restaurants and services.

"Research suggests when you spend your money locally, over 68 percent stays within the local economy," according to a prepared statement from the city.

"Small businesses are the lifeblood of our community," commented Mayor William R. Wild. "These are the people that support our athletic teams, donate to our community events and volunteer for our non-profits. They need our help now more than ever."

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Charter Township of Canton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title II of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Charter Township of Canton will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Charter Township of Canton's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Charter Township of Canton will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Charter Township of Canton's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton should contact the office of Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Charter Township of Canton to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260.

The Charter Township of Canton will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Publish: 12/17/20

CN2143 - 121720 2.5 x 4.72

PLANNING COMMISSION
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance of the Charter Township of Canton that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, January 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.** by electronic remote access on the following proposed amendment to the Canton Township Zoning Ordinance:

TREMONT PLACE (FORMERLY NAMED WELLINGTON ON THE WILLOW) PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AMENDMENT - Consider request to amend the Planned Development District as permitted in Section 27.04 of the Zoning Ordinance for the purpose of changing building separation distances, project phasing, approval period, and related changes on parcel nos.: 049-99-0001-712, 049-99-0001-713, 049-99-0001-714 (1632 Lotz N.), and 049-99-0001-716. Property is located south of Ford Road and on the east side of Lotz Road.

To mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, protect the public health, and provide essential protections to Canton Township residents; the Canton Township Planning Commission will conduct its meeting on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. by video teleconference in accordance with Michigan law.

Public comments may be submitted to patrick.sloan@canton-mi.org at any time prior to the meeting. Additionally, written comments addressed to the Planning Commission should be received at the Township Administration Building at 1150 S Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188 by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, January 4, 2021. The Planning Commission will read comments submitted within the Rules of the Planning Commission. Members of the public who attend by telephone or video may address the Planning Commission during the public hearing period via videoconference.

Individuals may join the video teleconference by going to:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85371436059

Or iPhone one-tap:
1-301-715-8592 (85371436059#) or 1-312-626-6799 (85371436059#)

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Webinar ID: 853 7143 6059

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SEE ATTACHED MAP

Greg Greene, Chairman
Publish: Newspaper - December 17, 2020

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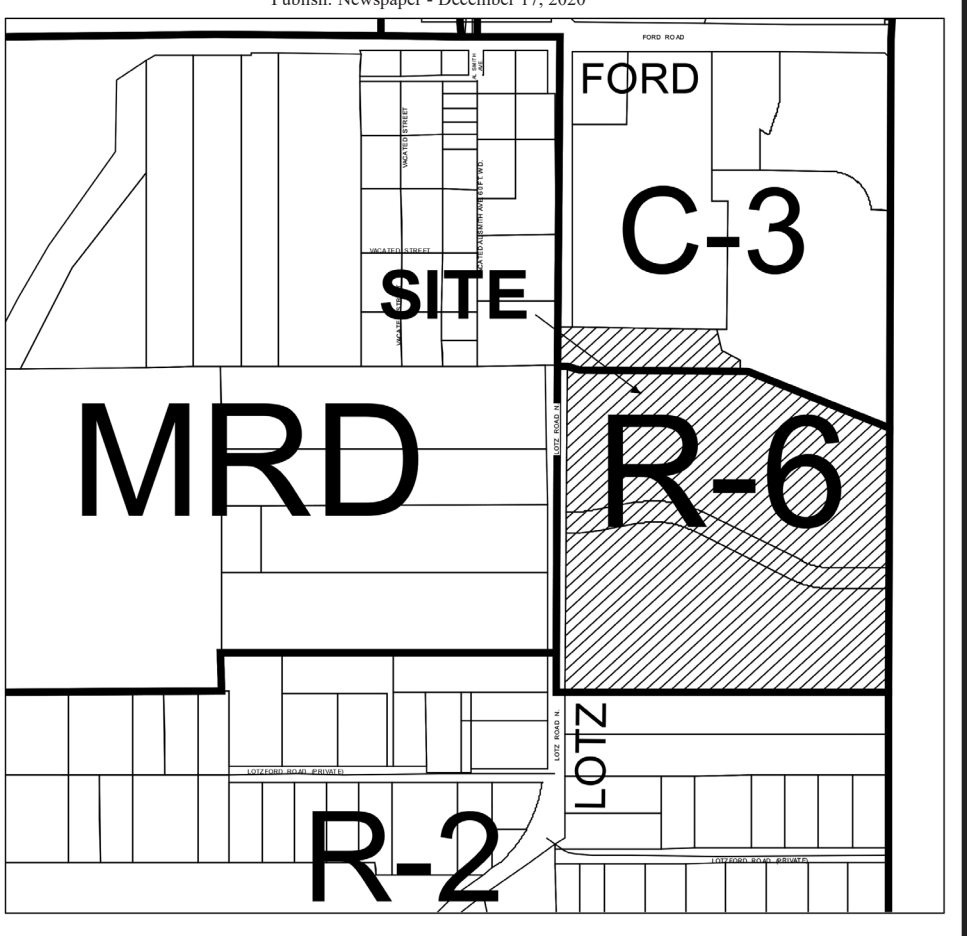

Tremont Place 049-PDDA-6317

Zoning

WC WETLANDS CONSERVATION	R-3 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	C-1 VILLAGE SHOPPING	OSP OFF STREET PARKING
RA RURAL AGRICULTURAL	R-4 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	C-2 COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL	LI LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
RR RURAL RESIDENTIAL	R-5 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	C-3 REGIONAL COMMERCIAL	LI-R RESEARCH PARK
RE RURAL ESTATE	R-6 SINGLE FAMILY ATTACHED RESIDENTIAL	C-4 INTERCHANGE SERVICE	GI GENERAL INDUSTRIAL
R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	MR MULTIPLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	O-1 OFFICE	
R-2 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	RMH MOBILE HOME PARK	MRD MID-RISE DEVELOPEMENT	

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Plymouth

Holiday stress

Health professionals urge self-care for mental well-being

Julie Brown
Special Writer

Patrick Stropes, a staff member at Growth Works Inc., knows the December holidays are different during the current pandemic

"People need to reach out when they need help," said Stropes, who handles public relations for Growth Works, founded in Plymouth in 1971. The facility now offers help for those struggling with addiction as well as their life choices, including youths under court referral.

"You don't want to just get in your own head and mull things over negatively. It's just really self-care, and staying connected to people," Stropes added.

He defined self-care, as knowing what your key stressors are, as well as the optimal ways of coping. Stropes, his two sons, four brothers and others had a festive Thanksgiving together via Zoom.

"It was great," he said of chatting remotely for about an hour before dinner. "It was very nice in these challenging times. Virtually now is where we're at."

He encourages those in recovery to check the tools online at the Growth Works website of www.gwcares.org, with the agency also on Facebook.

The Rev. Bryan Smith, pastor for more than 25 years at Geneva Presbyterian Church of Canton, got together with close family and a few more for Thanksgiving. "It was just very simple," Smith said of the stay-at-home Thanksgiving. "We ate and played a couple games together."

Smith agrees there's COVID-19 "fatigue," and hears a lot from his own Sheldon Road congregation of family stress "especially with kids not being in school." Changes in routine have impacted mental

Patrick Stropes

health, and some at Geneva are grieving loved ones.

Smith sees benefits to Zoom use and phone calls this time of year, but adds, "It's not a full substitute for being with someone."

The agency works with those in recovery from addiction, and Smith said recently, "That's not really coming up in my conversations" of holiday drinking excess.

The men agree financial burdens have are serious and prevalent, especially for those laid off from work, with Smith reminding his worshippers of the true reason for Christmas: "It's part of our faith, a big part of it," the pastor said of the birth of Jesus.

Smith sees normal routines like going to restaurants being restricted as adding to the stress."We're sociable creatures."

His wife, Jennifer Smith, has set up a weekly family remote meeting for her own mom in California, with other family members participating as well.

Stropes also appreciates the Canton Community Foundation increased social opportunities, especially for senior citizens. He notes many resources, including those for suicide prevention with 24/7 phone lines.

Stropes suggests less use of social media, noting the massive negativity during the recent election season. Less television is a good idea, too, he added, although some channels like FreeForm offer "cheesy" holiday movies.

"If we could see more positivity through our television, that would be helpful," Stropes said.

He appreciates area health systems/hospitals for diligent handling of the pandemic. "You see a lot of people not wearing masks. That also creates anxiety," said Stropes, who works remotely and limits going out and about now.

"People are working from home. There's definitely been an uptick in overdoses," Stropes said. "That pain comes back again when they're not self-medicating."

Online appointments are available too through Growth Works, which has clinicians for adults based in Canton. The agency has a building in downtown Plymouth and other regional facilities. The facility can be reached at (734) 455-4095.

Area mourns death of Arthur Butler

Arthur Butler, 72, a retired United States Coast Guard Commander, died Dec. 17.

Mr. Butler, a former president of the Noon Rotary Club of Plymouth, a member of the board of directors of the Plymouth United Way and president of the church council at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, was a practicing attorney who donated his time to numerous community organizations for more than 30 years.

Mr. Butler was born Dec. 17, 1943, the third of seven children. He was an Eagle Scout and graduated from Marysville High School, where he played football. After two years at Michigan State University, Mr. Butler joined the Coast Guard and attended the academy in Connecticut where he played football.

He and Carolyn Kay Fordham were married in 1972 and their world adventures took them from Michigan to Italy, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Maryland. They were the parents of two daughters, Kristin and Megan.

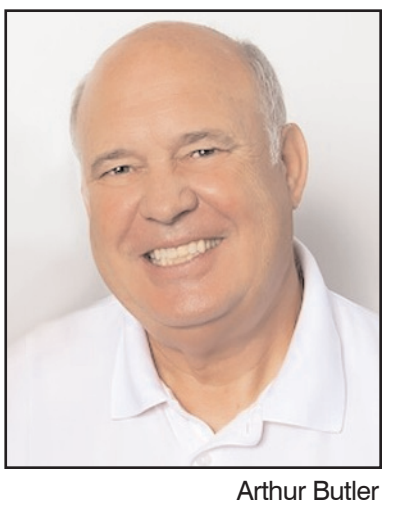
Mr. Butler retired from the Coast Guard after 20 years and the family returned to Plymouth.

Among Mr. Butler's survivors is his wife of 48 years, Carolyn; daughters, Col. Kristin KB McCall, USAF; son-in-law, Lt. Col Jonathan McCall, USAF, and their children, Duncan Arthur, Áine Kay, and Meara Elizabeth; Megan Marie Butler Schlanser, and her children, Adam Rodney and Jaclyn Read. Mr. Butler is also survived by his mother, Alice Mae Rankin Butler; brothers, Ralph Otis (Elizabeth) Butler IV, Brinton Butler and George (Teri) Butler; sisters Barbara (Jack) Lansing, Beverly (Glenn) Davis and Lorraine Pillow; sisters-in-law Barbara (Pete) Troupos and Debra (Daniel) Behmlander; 26 beloved nieces and nephews and nearly 40 great-nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his "his brothers in blue" including CDR Carl Smith; cadets he adopted including CDR Mike Raber and his family; exchange student, Staffan, and Amy; and his adopted daughters; Megan Ivey and Kathryn Swan, along with a multitude of friends and fellow Rotarians.

A service celebrating Mr. Butler's life took place yesterday at Risen Christ Lutheran Church.

Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA.

The family suggests donations to the National Coast Guard Museum Association at www.coastguardmuseum.org or



Arthur Butler

the Plymouth Rotary Foundation at P.O. Box 5401 Plymouth, MI 48170

Final arrangements were entrusted to the Vermeulen Funeral Home.

Salute to Stoney set for Saturday

A great deal of traffic is expected on Union Street in Plymouth Saturday when the community celebrates the retirement of Susan Stoney from the Plymouth District Library.

Stoney has served as the library community relations specialist since 2001 and has worked full time in that position for 10 years.

"Susan has proudly represented the Plymouth District Library for 19 years and we want to send her off with a hurrah," said Library Director Carol Souchock, who has planned a special tribute for Stoney.

"The inability to gather safely is prohibiting the opportunity for a traditional retirement party for Susan so we are offering you a drive-by opportunity to share your best wishes," she said in an invitation to the public to join the tribute. She urged residents of the community to join a drive-by celebration beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19.

"Please drive past the library parking lot steps to share your best wishes. You are welcome to make a sign, wave a flag, and honk your horn.

"We are expecting a crowd so you are encouraged to enter the parking lot from Union Street and join the car parade," Souchock advised.

Cards congratulating Stoney can be sent to the library at Plymouth District Library, 223 S. Main St., Plymouth, MI 48170.

Suspect in overpass sandbag assault is bound over for trial

The man accused of dropping several 40-pound sandbags from an Interstate-96 overpass seriously injuring a woman will face trial on felony charges

Cindy Eckley, a Plymouth business owner, was seriously injured in the incident last fall which resulted in criminal charges against David Vincent-Charles Garcia, 41 of Brighton. A second man, who drove Garcia home after the incident will also face criminal charges in the incident.

District Judge Travis Reeds of the Novi 52-1 Court sent the case to Oakland County Circuit Court last week. He ordered home confinement for Garcia who is charged with throwing objects at cars causing serious impairment, assault with intent to do great bodily harm and malicious destruction of personal property. Reeds allowed Garcia to leave home for his employment and other specific purposes. Reeds refused a request from the prosecuting attorney Jessica Blanch for an increased bond. She argued that Garcia committed a random act of violence and is a danger to society.

She told the judge that Garcia's blood alcohol count was .089 percent, just over the legal .08 limit. Investigators determined that he had been involved in a vehicle accident in his truck on I-96 in Lyon Township the night of the incident.

Reeds agreed in the seriousness of the crime that he called horrific but noted that the defendant had not been convicted.

David Vincent-Charles Garcia

"If I were the sentencing court, I would not hesitate to send this man to prison. That is not my role, though, today. He's not convicted as he sits here today," Reeds said.

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59. Auctions

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2008 MERCURY SABLE
1MEHM42W78G613606
1998 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER
1P4GP45G5WB691218
2001 CADILLAC DEVILLE
1G6KF57991U109112
2005 FORD TAURUS
1FAFP56U35A266780
2003 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER
1GNDT13S932114123
2012 FORD ESCAPE
1FMCU0EG2CKB02797
2014 MOTOVOX
L4SPAELJ9E2019770
2010 JEEP PATRIOT
1J4NT4GB3AD201559
2005 VOVLO XC9
YV1CZ911751156594
2011 CHEVROLET EQUINOX
2GNALBEC6B1217240
2002 FORD EXPLORER
1FMZU72E92UC00606
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CITY OF ROMULUS
Board of Zoning Appeals
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING - January 6, 2021

Notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at **7:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, January 6, 2021** for the purpose of considering the following:

1. BZA-2020-012; **Greer Staples** requesting a variance from Section 3.07(a), Schedule of Regulations to allow a 35.4-foot front yard setback where 50 feet is required. The subject property is located at 15993 Fern Drive (Parcel ID #80-122-01-0034-000). The applicant is proposing the construction of a single-family residence.

The public hearing will be held via the ZOOM Meeting app and teleconferencing.

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83980510857?pwd=U21GS2FQYVBQdnFOVThuZS9oZTJFdz09

One tap mobile: +1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: **839 8051 0857** Passcode: **133322**

Written comments may be submitted and should be addressed to the Planning Department, 12600 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485 or planning@romulusgov.com.

Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to effectively participate in the meeting should contact the Carol Maise, City Planner at 734-955-4530 or send an email to planning@romulusgov.com by 8:00 a.m. the day of the meeting to request assistance. Closed Captions will be provided upon request.

Publish: December 17, 2020

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CANTON

Canton board of trustees approves pay raises

Julie Brown
Special Writer

Members of the Canton Board of Trustees unanimously approved a 2.5 percent raise for merit non-union full-time employees, along with elected township officials, at their Dec. 7 meeting.

The township supervisor, treasurer and clerk hold full-time salaried positions, and will receive the 2.5 percent pay hike.

Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, Clerk Michael Siegrist, and Treasurer Dian Slavens were among the "yes" votes on the first raises for elected officials in several years.

Trustee Steven Sneideman noted the new board members had been elected Nov. 3 and their predecessors had turned down raises "for essentially five years. I'm comfortable with it at this time," he said, and also with a match for other employee units.

Trustee Sommer Foster noted the four part-time trustees receive only nominal pay.

"It becomes quite a jump," especially for full-time elected officials, Foster said.

Early in 2020, former Canton Supervisor Pat Williams began to study pay for elected officials, due to forgoing of raises by the

> *The township supervisor, treasurer and clerk hold full-time salaried positions, and will receive the 2.5 percent pay hike.*

officials. The vote was unanimous, with Trustee Kate Borninski absent due to her final Plymouth-Canton school board meeting.

Canton trustees, in other business, OK'd 6-0 use of $56,000 at various vendors to furnish the new Fire Station No. 2.

"This is the exciting part. The station's coming along great and should open this January," said Director of Fire Services Christopher Stoecklein.

That date doesn't include tearing down of the old station, Stoecklein added.

Finance and Budget Director Wendy Trumbull outlined several changes to the 2020 budget that were unanimously OK'd. The township will spend more on external legal affairs.

"We're actually ending up right where we started for state-shared revenue" in the general fund. A Drug Enforcement Fund for which the township has been a fiduciary is "a bookkeeping item" in its handling, Trumbull said, and a western Wayne consortium with other municipalities on criminal matters "ended and there was money left over."

Some of that was returned to consortium members, Trumbull said, with the state involved now in dissolution.

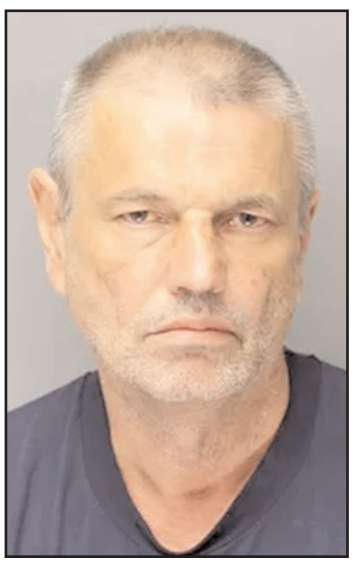
Trustees also awarded $41,900 to Wade Trim Associates for work at the Administration Complex/Heritage Park site.A 10 percent contingency was included in that vote.

Serial burglar to serve probation

David Edward Miller will serve three years probation and pay a $1,000 fine after pleading guilty to several break-ins in Canton Township.

Miller, 58, of Clinton Township, faced a maximum of 40 years in prison for the four break-ins, a charge of larceny along with a habitual offender charge.

Miller entered a guilty plea to breaking and entering two BIGGBY Coffee locations, a Subway sandwich shop and a local tanning salon in August. Each of the felony charges carried a maximum 10-year sentence. As a habitual offender, he faced the possibility of life in prison.



David Edward Miller

According to state prison records, Miller was released from prison in March where he had been serving terms for charges including breaking and entering.

Police seek suspect in shooting

Canton police investigators are continuing their search for a woman who shot an employee during a robbery earlier this month.

Canton police investigators are asking the public for assistance with identifying the female suspect who shot the employee of ADAM (Alcohol Drug Administrative Monitoring) during a robbery which took place at about 7 p.m. Nov. 16.

According to police reports, the female suspect entered the business at 5820 North Lilley Road carrying a handgun and demanding cash from employees. During the incident, the suspect discharged the handgun she was brandishing, striking one victim. Canton first responders subsequently transported the injured individual to a local hospital for treatment of a non-life threatening injury.

Witnesses told police the suspect fled the scene with an undisclosed amount of cash. She is

described as having dark skin, in her 20s to 30s, wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and a red mask.

Anyone who may recognize the woman is asked to contact the Canton Police Department at (734) 394-5400.

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Northville

City, township offices are closed to public

Northville Township officials have closed all public entrances to municipal buildings - except by appointment because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Gatherings and Face Mask Order.

"Our staff remains committed to providing our residents with the most efficient services possible; we continue to work inside. At township hall, you may use our Drive-Thru, Drop Box or make a payment online at www.twp.northville.mi.us/Pay. Building permits may be dropped off in the Drive-Thru, emailed or completed online. Residents may conduct business over the telephone or U.S. mail, too. Our main line is (248) 348-5800," noted an official statement from the township offices.

Emergency crews and first responders will remain on duty 24/7, but both the police and fire department headquarters are closed to the public. The Community Center, Youth Network and Recreation Center at Hillside are closed.

Parks and Recreation programming will be postponed except Senior Yoga, Toddler Yoga, Kids Power Karate and Youth Dance which will move to a virtual format. Senior transportation will continue. Liquid nutrition pickup and the medical loan equipment program will continue by appointment only.

"This action is to protect the public and keep our workforce safe. We understand this move will be disruptive for many. One key factor in this decision is Wayne County, "has seen a 115 percent increase in cases, 140 percent increase in deaths and 114 percent increase in hospitalizations in a 14-day period ending Nov. 13," officials said.

> *This action is to protect the public and keep our workforce safe. We understand this move will be disruptive for many.*

As the Dec. 20 deadline of the latest order approaches, the situation will be monitored and any changes according to the prepared announcement.

Northville City Hall is open by appointment only.

Residents can use the drop box at the circular drive and in the vestibule for any payments or business that can't be completed online, officials said.and cautioned residents not to include cash when making payments. Those who must pay cash should call to schedule an appointment.

The temporary closure of city hall to citizens will be re-evaluated on a weekly basis, based on State COVID-19 restrictions and how the pandemic is impacting the Northville community.

Most staff will be working remotely. There will be some staff in the office during regular business hours to fulfill requests made by appointment, such as providing documents, accepting cash payments, and offering other services that can't be done online or through the drop box, officials said.

The public can visit the Northville COVID-19 page for news and updates about city services.

For more information, residents can call (248) 449-9905 or send an email to info@ci.northville.mi.us. The main number is (248) 349-1300. For department emails, view the directory. More updates are available on twitter and Facebook. Emergency notifications from Nixle will also be posted to Facebook. To sign up for this free service, visit the Nixle website, officials advised.

Concerns

FROM PAGE 1

asked the officials.

His concerns were reiterated by Ricky Joellen, who lives on Brandt Street in the subdivision. He agreed with Carroll about the speeding drivers in the neighborhood and said that "nobody stops at the stop sign. Through the walls of my house we can hear them going 60 miles an hour."

"The police are not doing what needs to be done. This is absolutely asinine. It is getting dangerous, getting real dangerous," he said.

He said that he asked to speak to the traffic sergeant and had called the chief of police and the mayor's office, but every time he was referred back to the police department.

Councilwoman Eva Webb responded, "You should have protection. Our citizens passed a millage for police and fire. We need to have police over there to tone this down."

Councilman William Wadsworth also responded to the residents' concerns noting that the subdivision "used to be my neighborhood. I have a lot of friends still there."

He suggested a meeting with Carroll, Pfannes and himself "and get some action and get something done, not just talking."

Joellen said that his complaints to the police department were met with a standard response that the officers are "spread too thin, there are only two officers on patrol."

"If we keep ignoring it, it's not going to get any better," Webb said. "Our residents passed a millage. It's not that we need to give them (police) more. They just need to do what they promised," she said.

Other residents spoke to the council members reiterating the uptick in crime in the neighborhood while neighbors said they have seen an increased police presence in the area.

Bill Muggleberg who has lived in Oakbrook for 53 years said he has seen police more in the last six months than in all the time he has lived in the city.

"I've been seeing the cars, these guys are working their tails off, I'll give them that," he said. "Law enforcement is not the problem. We need to come together on this problem. He suggested a Neighborhood Watch effort in the area.

Wadsworth said that the council members needed a written report regarding the situation. "That was my home for 15 years," he said. He asked Mayor LeRoy Burcroff if he would keep the council members abreast of the situation.

Webb thanked Muggleberg for his assessment of the police presence in the area.

"With COVID, going on we have to do things differently" she said. "We are in a new era."

Pfannes said early this week that he had already spoken to several of the residents, either in person or by phone, and had conversations with them in an effort to allay their concerns.

Police

FROM PAGE 1

highly critical of the policy.

"The transgender is guiding children down a path of destruction and darkness. You are enforcing confusion and deception in young impressionable minds. This policy is evil," one comment read.

During initial discussions of the policy, some residents of the district claimed it allowed for the possibility of sexual predators in lavatories and locker rooms being used by female students.

That claim was countered by research presented by McCoin who explained that there is a thorough process to identify students as trans in the district.

"This policy will not allow males to claim they are female on a day-to-day basis in order to gain entrance into women's facilities," she said. She noted that the policy was similar to those in other districts where no sexual predator issues in the school buildings have been reported.

Plymouth-Canton Educational Park counselor Erin Demarest was in support of the new policy.

"I have seen first-hand the pain and embarrassment transgender kids feel over something as simple as a substitute teacher calling them by their legal name in MyStar," Demarest said during the public comments segment of the meeting. "Adolescence is hard enough for straight kids. These difficulties are intensified exponentially for many transgender students."

Effects

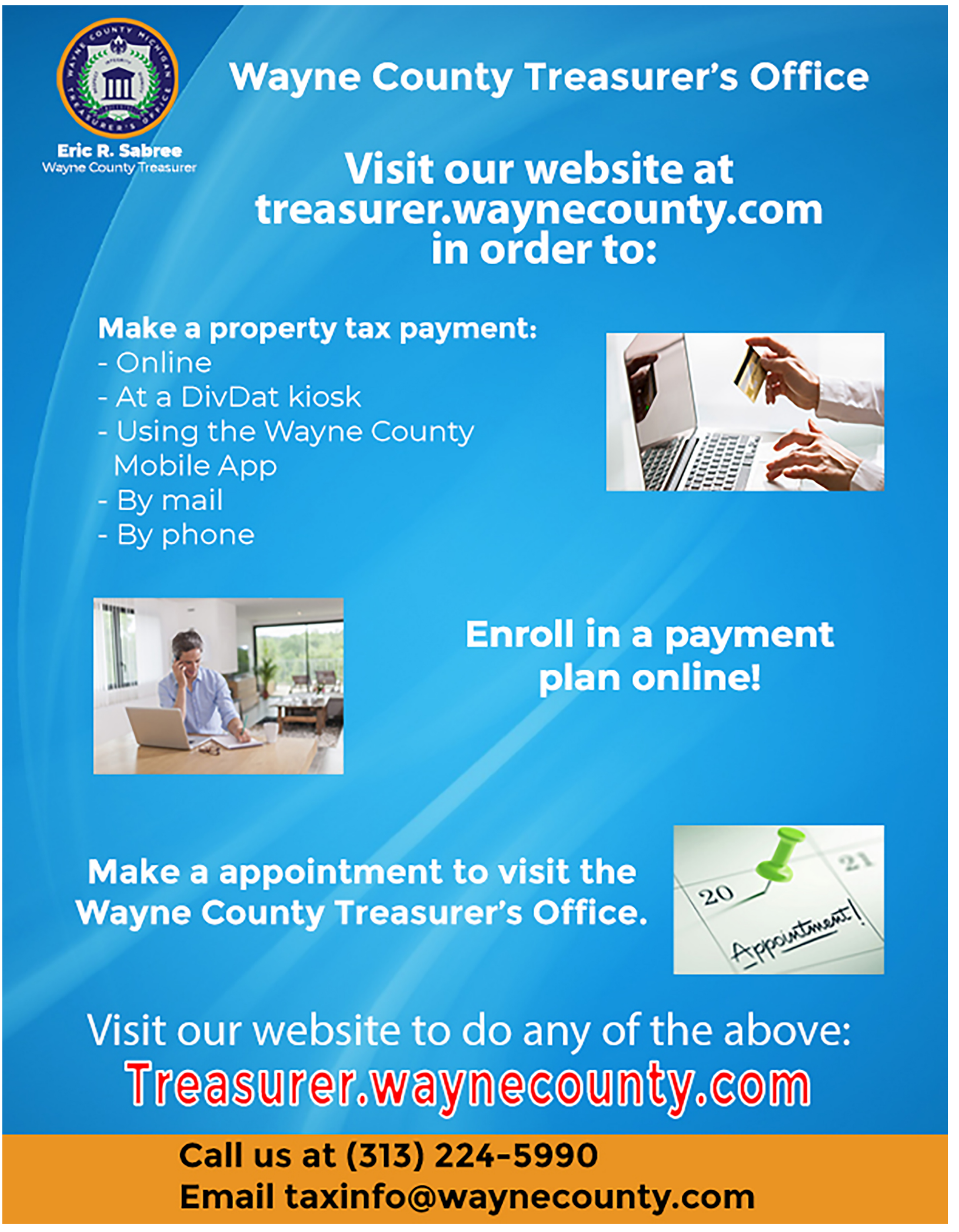
FROM PAGE 1

have to fight this disease."

She said that her department and the state would be utilizing media outlets and local medical providers and health departments, along with hospital leaders and front-line providers to try to educate minority communities about the importance of getting the vaccine.

Prior to her roles at MDHHS, Khaldun was the director and health officer for the Detroit Health Department, where she oversaw a robust community-driven community health assessment, established a comprehensive reproductive health network and led the Detroit response to the Hepatitis A outbreak. In 2018, Khaldun was selected for the 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health Award by the National Minority Quality Forum; she also is a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians (FACEP).

Previously, Khaldun was the Baltimore City Health Department chief medical officer, where she oversaw seven clinics and a laboratory and led efforts to address the opioid epidemic. She has held several local and national leadership positions, including director of the Center for Injury Prevention and Control at George Washington University, founder and director of the Fellowship in Health Policy in the University of Maryland Department of Emergency Medicine, and as a Fellow in President ObamaDr. Joneigh S. Khaldun administration's Office of Health Reform.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